AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for generating code for loading a multi-dimensional data warehouse from a plurality of source databases, the method comprising the steps:

(a) defining the multi-dimensional data warehouse and the source databases as a set of entity-relationship data models;

(b) creating a source file containing instructions for loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases, the instructions including a plurality of high-level directives, said high-level directives including an aggregation directive specifying that data from a specified source table within said source databases is to be aggregated into a specified destination table within said data warehouse;

(c) automatically pre-processing ~~each of said high-level directives in the source file,~~ said aggregation directive by

(i) accessing said data models to pull information from said entity-relationship data models about the structures of said source ~~databases and said multi-dimensional data warehouse~~ table and said destination table, and

(ii) using said information to generate ~~said~~ code for ~~loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases~~ aggregating data from the source table into the destination table; and

(d) appending said code ~~generated by pre-processing said plurality of high-level directives~~ to an executable destination file.

2 - 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for loading a multi-dimensional data warehouse from a plurality of source databases, the method comprising the steps:

(a) defining the multi-dimensional data warehouse and the source databases as a set of entity-relationship data models;

(b) creating a source file containing instructions for loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases, the instructions including a plurality of high-level directives, said high-level directives including an aggregation directive specifying that data from a specified source table within said source databases is to be aggregated into a specified destination table within said data warehouse;

(c) automatically pre-processing ~~each of said high-level directives in the source file,~~ said aggregation directive by

(i) accessing said data models to pull information from said entity-relationship data models about the structures of said source ~~databases and said multi-dimensional data warehouse~~ table and said destination table, and

(ii) using said information to generate ~~said~~ code for ~~loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases~~ aggregating data from the source table into the destination table;

(d) appending said code ~~generated by pre-processing said plurality of high-level directives~~ to an executable destination file; and

(e) running the code in the executable destination file, to load the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 7 including the step of providing a storage scheme file containing a set of current physical data storage schemes, and wherein said step of creating the source file includes inserting at least one run-time processor macro into the source file, said run-time processor macro identifying at least one of said storage schemes, and wherein said step of running the code includes searching said storage scheme file to find one of said storage schemes identified by said run-time processor macro and replacing said at least one run-time processor macro with ~~executable code~~ a storage clause generated at run time from said one of said storage schemes.

9 - 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

(a) a set of entity-relationship data models defining a multi-dimensional data warehouse and a plurality of source databases;

(b) a source file containing instructions for loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases, the instructions including a plurality of high-level directives, said high-level directives including an aggregation directive specifying that data from a specified source table within said source databases is to be aggregated into a specified destination table within said data warehouse;

(c) pre-processing means for automatically pre-processing ~~each of said high-level directives in the source file,~~ said aggregation directive by

(i) accessing said data models to pull information from said entity-relationship data models about the structures of said source ~~databases and said multi-dimensional data warehouse~~ table and said destination table, and

(ii) using said information to generate ~~said~~ code for ~~loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases~~ aggregating data from the source table into the destination table;

(d) means for appending said code generated by pre-processing said plurality of high-level directives to an executable destination file; and

(e) processing means for running the code in the executable destination file, to load the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases.

14 -15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) An information carrier, holding a program for performing a method for generating code for loading a multi-dimensional data warehouse from a plurality of source databases, defined as a set of entity-relationship data models, the method comprising the steps:

(a) creating a source file containing instructions for loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases, the instructions including a plurality of

high-level directives, said high-level directives including an aggregation directive specifying that data from a specified source table within said source databases is to be aggregated into a specified destination table within said data warehouse;

(b) automatically pre-processing ~~each of said high-level directives in the source file,~~ said aggregation directive by

(i) accessing said data models to pull information from said entity-relationship data models about the structures of said source ~~databases and said multi-dimensional data warehouse~~ table and said destination table, and

(ii) using said information to generate ~~said~~ code for ~~loading the multi-dimensional data warehouse from the plurality of source databases~~ aggregating data from the source table into the destination table; and

(c) appending said code ~~generated by pre-processing said plurality of high-level directives~~ to an executable destination file.